



## A Regional Monitoring Program for the Sacramento River Watershed

### Monitoring in the Sacramento River Watershed

The Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP) launched a monitoring program for the Sacramento River and its major tributaries in 1998 to better understand water quality in the Sacramento River Watershed. This successful program provided valuable information to the public and government agencies until 2007 when grant funds for monitoring ceased. Currently, the Department of Water Resources (with significant financial support from the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program) monitors general water quality trends at many long-term stations. But the long-term vision remains to develop a self-sustaining, stakeholder-based RMP.

In addition to SRWP, several agencies and other organizations also monitor water quality in the Sacramento River and its major tributaries: U.S. Geological Survey, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, County and City of Sacramento, California Rice Commission, and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. While there are differences among these monitoring efforts, there is also duplication. In this economic and political climate, now is the time to pool scarce resources and to share information.



### Potential Benefits of an RMP

- » Minimize duplication
- » Lower overall cost
- » More comprehensive monitoring coverage
- » Long term sustainability

### Why an RMP for the Sacramento River Watershed?

Coordinated RMPs make sense. Stakeholders in three neighboring watersheds (San Joaquin River Watershed, San Francisco Bay, and the Delta) are also now in various stages of developing or implementing RMPs. The Sacramento River Watershed constitutes the majority of flows to the Bay-Delta – making it even more important to better understand water quality in this basin. Initiating an RMP would greatly help to improve our understanding and ability to evaluate status and trends over time. A coordinated RMP will allow us to assess current baseline conditions, determine if conditions are improving or declining, and identify areas to focus more resources. It will also improve overall cost effectiveness of monitoring efforts in the watershed and reduce duplication among existing monitoring programs.

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